

(ii) *Classes of Insurance.* The following statement shows premiums and losses in respect of the principal classes of risks, with the proportions of losses on premiums, for the years 1945–46 and 1946–47:—

### FIRE, MARINE AND GENERAL INSURANCE : PREMIUMS AND LOSSES, PRINCIPAL CLASSES OF RISK.

Class of Risk.	Premiums, less reinsurances and returns.		Losses, less reinsurances.		Proportion of Losses on Premiums.	
	1945–46.		1946–47.		1945–46.	
	£	£	£	£	%	%
Fire . . . . .	7,008,210	7,775,221	1,730,442	2,101,029	24.69	27.02
Workers' Compensation	5,976,861	7,128,805	4,436,596	5,610,173	74.23	78.70
Motor Vehicle—						
Compulsory      Third						
Party . . . . .	1,074,861	1,143,536	692,420	1,059,686	64.42	92.67
Other . . . . .	2,089,520	2,864,587	1,196,137	1,953,701	57.24	68.20
Marine . . . . .	1,637,193	2,367,362	407,359	638,309	24.88	26.96
All other . . . . .	3,344,164	3,972,977	1,073,561	1,209,849	32.10	30.45
Total . . . . .	21,130,809	25,252,488	9,536,515	12,572,747	45.13	49.79

The volume of business measured by the amount of premium income shows that fire insurance represented about 33.2 per cent. of the total business during 1945–46 and 30.8 per cent. during 1946–47, while next in importance were workers' compensation 28.3 per cent. during 1945–46 and 28.3 per cent. during 1946–47, and motor vehicles (including compulsory third party insurance) 15.0 per cent. in 1945–46 and 15.9 per cent. in 1946–47. Marine insurance constituted 7.7 per cent. in 1945–46 and 9.4 per cent. in 1946–47.

During the three years 1932–33 to 1934–35 less than 45 per cent. of the premium income was required on the average to meet losses. Up to 1939–40 the proportion of losses on premiums did not move much from the 50 per cent. mark, but between 1940–41 and 1943–44 it had dropped to 41.32 per cent. In 1944–45 it increased to 46.87 per cent. and in 1945–46 and 1946–47 it was 45.13 per cent. and 49.79 per cent. respectively.

3. Commonwealth Marine War Risks Insurance Board.—Information given in the two preceding paragraphs excludes the transactions of the Commonwealth Marine War Risks Insurance Board. With a view to stabilizing premium rates, the Commonwealth Government, in February, 1941, set up this Board to undertake marine war risk insurance. At the outset, the Board confined its activities to the insurance of Australian ships (the majority of which were previously insured in Great Britain) against war risks, and, during its early months, practically the whole of the Australian mercantile fleet was covered. From the end of 1941 to the middle of 1943, however, vessels which had been requisitioned by the Shipping Control Board were not insured with the Insurance Board as the Shipping Control Board made its own internal arrangements to insure these vessels. This internal arrangement continued until 1st July, 1943, after which date the Shipping Control Board insured all the requisitioned vessels with the Insurance Board. With the worsening of the war situation in 1942, the Board extended its activities from March, 1942, to cover the insurance of certain essential imported cargoes, and, from July, 1942, to cover all coastal cargoes. The cover provided by the Board was confined to the insurance against war risks, and ordinary marine cover was not generally provided. Transactions of the Board for the years 1940–41 to 1946–47 are shown in the following table.

**COMMONWEALTH MARINE WAR RISKS INSURANCE BOARD : SUMMARY OF TRANSACTIONS.**

Year.	Net Premiums Received.	Expenditure.		
		Claims Paid.	Other Expenses.	Total.
1940-41 .. .	£ 154,853	£ ..	£ 15	£ 15
1941-42 .. .	443,820	80,103	632	80,735
1942-43 .. .	2,086,824	1,333,687	48,654	1,382,341
1943-44 .. .	2,685,780	855,172	48,670	903,842
1944-45 .. .	1,634,770	281,385	23,684	305,069
1945-46 .. .	428,393	30,321	6,901	37,222
1946-47 .. .	92,984	50,232	2,757	52,989

**E. FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.**

1. General.—Friendly societies are an important factor in the social life of the community, as probably more than one-third of the total population of Australia comes either directly or indirectly under their influence. Their total membership is over 620,000, but, as certain benefits, such as medical attendance and free medicines, and in many cases funeral expenses, are granted to members' families as well as to members themselves, this figure must, even when due allowance is made for young and unmarried members, be more than doubled to arrive at an estimate of the number of persons who receive some direct benefit from these societies. Legislation has conferred certain privileges on friendly societies, but, on the other hand, it insists on their registration, and it is the duty of the Registrars in the various States, prior to registering a new society, to see that its proposed rules conform to the law, and that the scale of contribution is sufficient to provide the promised benefits. Societies are obliged to forward annual returns as to their membership and their finances to the Registrar, and reports are published in most of the States dealing with the returns received. The figures in the following tables are for the year 1945-46 in respect of all States except Tasmania, where they relate to the calendar year 1946; Queensland, where they relate to 1944-45; and New South Wales, where they relate to the year 1938-39. In New South Wales particulars for later years have not been tabulated because of staff shortages.

2. Number of Societies, Lodges and Members.—The number of different societies and lodges, the total number of benefit members at the end of the year, and their average number during the year are shown in the following table:—

**FRIENDLY SOCIETIES : SOCIETIES, LODGES AND MEMBERS.(a)**

State.	Number of Registered Friendly Societies.	Number of Branches.	Benefit Members at End of Year.	Average Number of Benefit Members during the Year.
New South Wales (b) .. .	33	2,402	211,170	211,653
Victoria (c) .. .	109	1,463	204,513	205,520
Queensland .. .	26	570	73,594	73,452
South Australia (d) .. .	17	(e) 873	80,419	80,411
Western Australia (d) .. .	13	320	30,345	29,605
Tasmania .. .	20	174	23,728	(f) 23,676

(a) See par. 1 for years covered. (b) Excludes twenty-one miscellaneous societies consisting of Medical Institutes, Dispensaries, and Burial Societies. (c) Excludes Dispensaries and Juvenile branches. (d) Excludes Juvenile branches. (e) Societies containing male and female branches counted as two branches. (f) Estimated.